



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435  
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



# Public Notice

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| FILE NO.:        | KNG-MVK-2005-123 |
| EVALUATOR:       | Ms. Kaaren Geter |
| PHONE NO.:       | (601) 631-5162   |
| DATE:            | May 5, 2005      |
| EXPIRATION DATE: | May 26, 2005     |

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, proposes to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, for the proposed construction described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Location of Proposed Work: The proposed project is located in Section 24, T15N-R8W, UTM 15 687920E 3668269N, within the Yazoo River drainage basin, Washington County, near Hollandale, Mississippi.

Description of Proposed Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, proposes to relocate an existing 13,600-foot channel that connects Main Canal to Steele Bayou at the mouth of Black Bayou. The entire project would involve Steele Bayou 66-B channel relocation, raising of Dike No. 3 and Dike No. 4, placement of closures in the existing channel, and placement of excavated material establishing adjacent fields for waterfowl habitat.

The existing channel is located along the northern end of Swan Lake. A levee is located between Steele Bayou Item 66-B Channel and Swan Lake. The levee is continuing to degrade due to the inadequacy of subsurface soils for levee support. A majority of the project site and Swan Lake are located in the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed channel would be located north of the existing channel.

The existing channel's bottom width is approximately 90 feet and it is approximately 6 feet deep. The new channel would maintain a 90-foot bottom width. The excavated material would be placed on Dikes No. 3 and 4 to raise them to the required grade. Channel closures would be placed at the upstream and downstream ends of the existing channel and used to divert the flow from the existing channel to the new channel. Additional excavated material would be placed in containment areas located in two adjacent upland sites. One of the two containment areas would be located on existing refuge property and maintained by the refuge as a moist soil area for waterfowl habitat area. The new channel and channel closures would require approximately 93 acres, of which approximately 9.25 acres are forested bottomland hardwood wetlands. In addition, construction of the new channel and channel closures would impact approximately 4.75 acres of other waters of the United States. The containment areas are located in approximately 226 acres of adjacent fields, of which approximately 37.25 acres are farmed wetlands. Approximately 1.25 million cubic yards of material would be excavated from the new channel and used for channel closures and dikes, with excess material being placed in two containment areas adjacent to the new channel. The excavation would be performed using a track hoe and in the dry.

Relocation of a county road and existing utilities would be necessary to complete the proposed project. Additionally, 5 structures and 11 silos would have to be relocated and right-of-way access obtained.

The degraded levee would be breeched and/or graded to allow the existing channel to naturally re-vegetate and/or to replant trees.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose for the project would be to relocate the existing Steele Bayou 66-B channel along the northern side of Swan Lake to protect the lake from levee degradation and failure.

State Water Quality Certification: Application has been made for a water quality certification from the State of Mississippi, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Project Authority: The proposed work was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944, with subsequent amending modifications through the 1970's.

Environmental Assessment: An environmental assessment is being prepared by the Vicksburg District Corps and will be available for public review once complete.

Cultural Resources: A cultural resources survey was conducted at the project site prior to 2004. The initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any sites in Washington County listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer has reviewed the survey and concurred with its findings. Copies of the survey and this notice have been sent to the Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

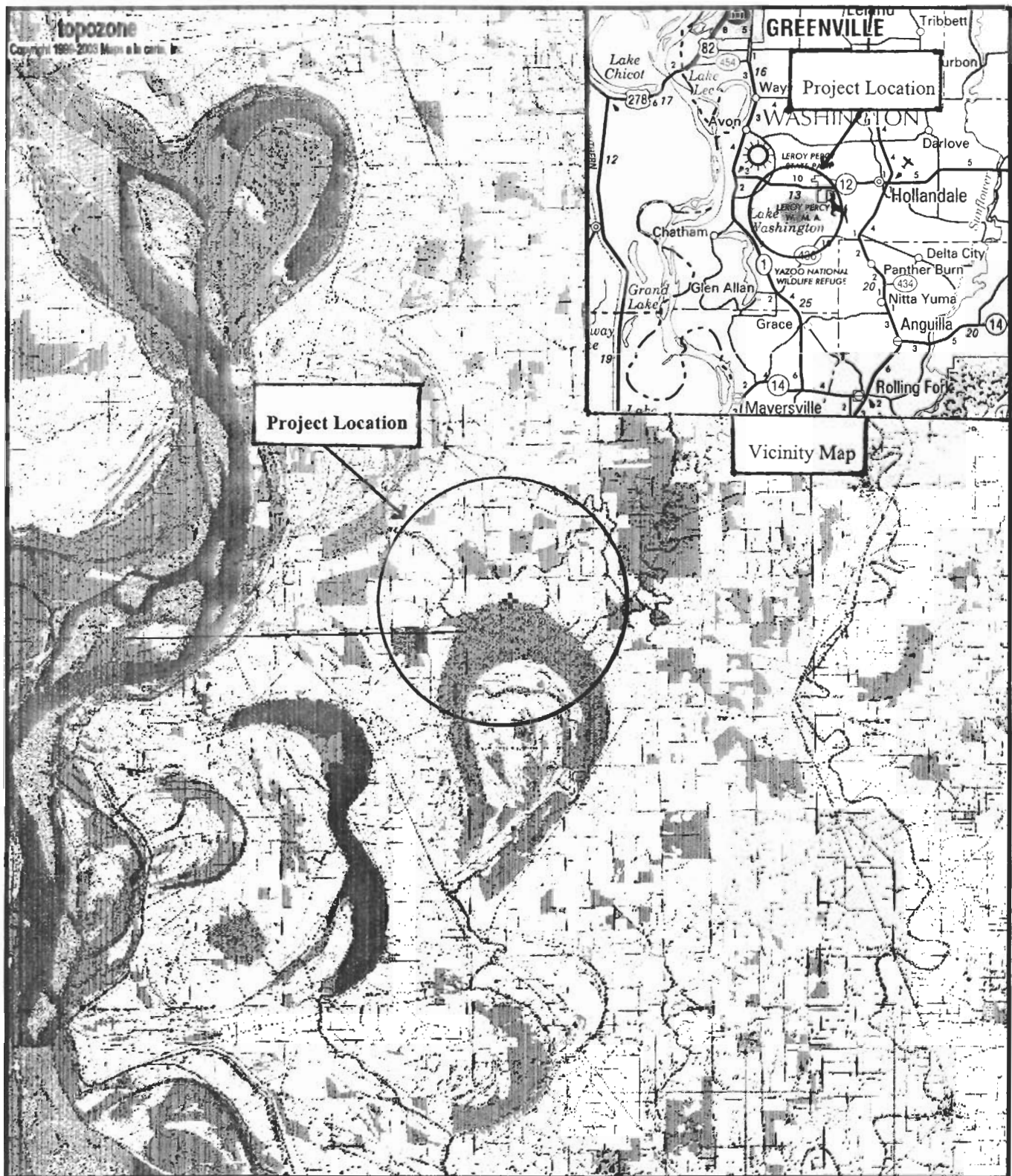
Public Participation: All factors relating to the affected aquatic ecosystem which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered and evaluated in light of guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

The decision whether or not to allow the construction of the project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed discharge of dredged material into waters of the United States. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of water-related resources. The benefits which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments.

Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this proposal. This request must be made by the specified public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in the matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.

Dennis O. Norris  
Chief, Operations Division



Map center is UTM 15 687920E 3668269N (WGS84/NAD83)

**Swan Lake NW** quadrangle

Projection is UTM Zone 15 NAD83 Datum

M=0.91  
G=1.102

CEMVK-OD-FE KNG-MVK-2005-123

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
VICKSBURG DISTRICT

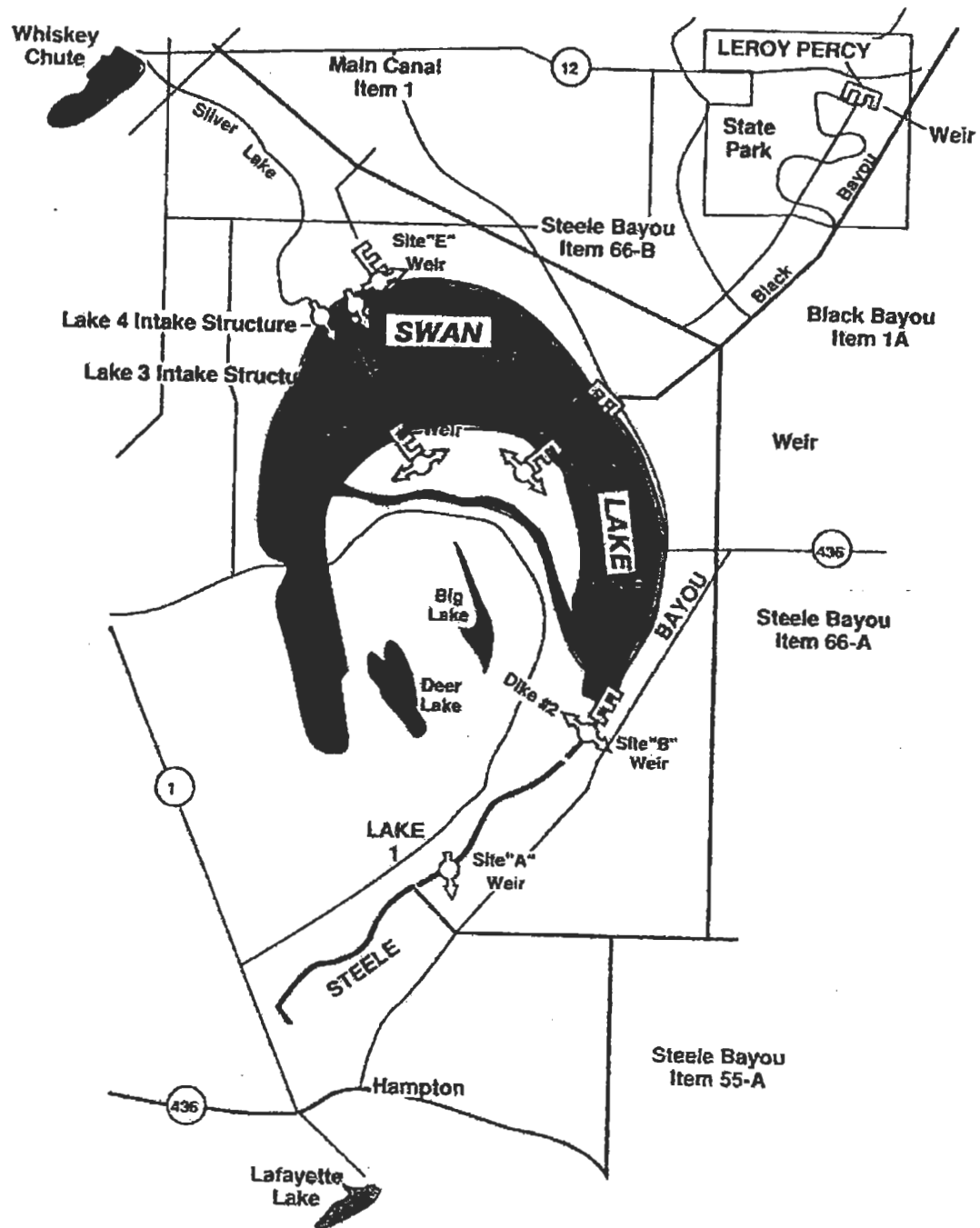
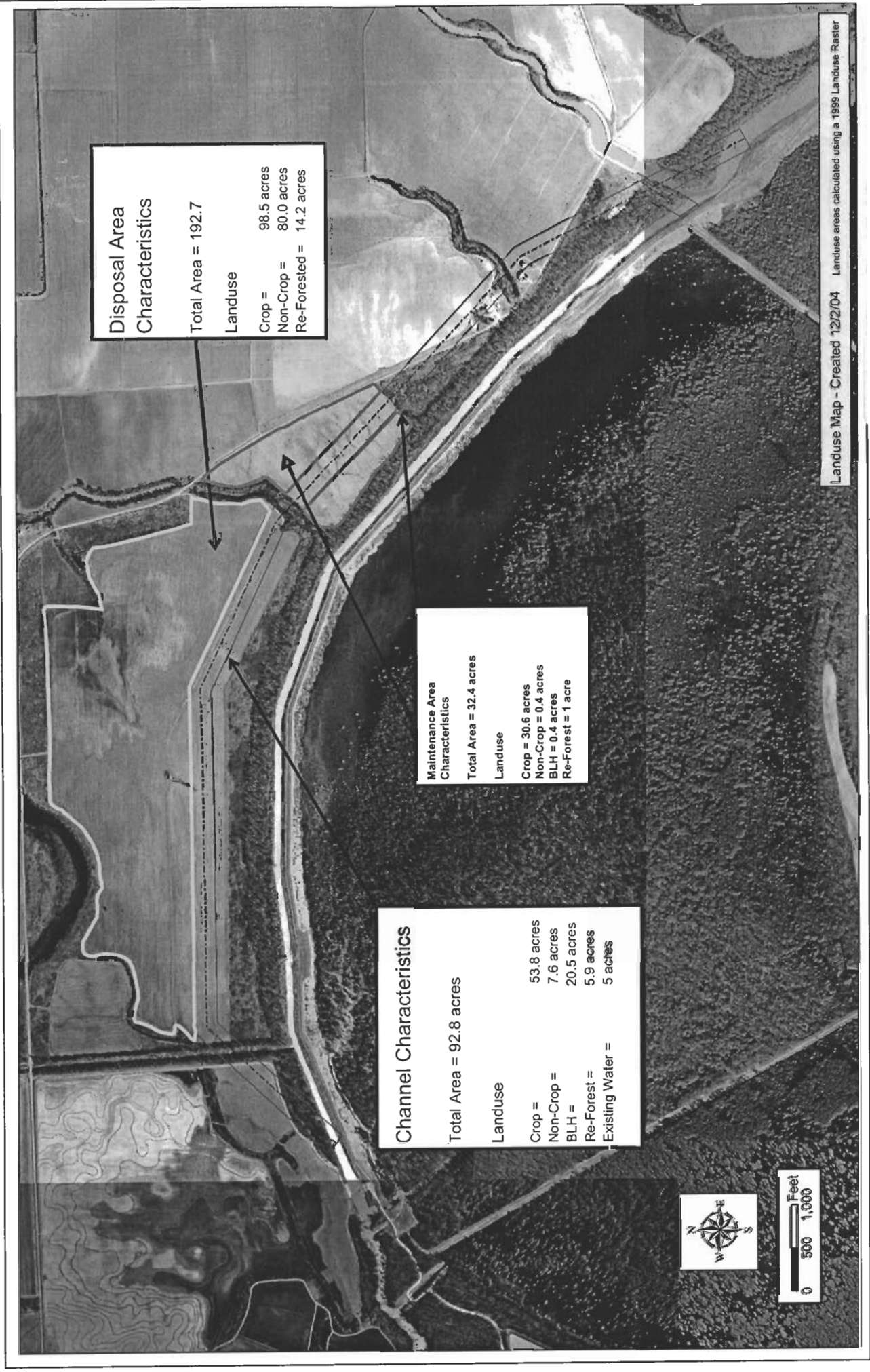


Figure 1: Overview of Swan Lake Project Area



**Disposal Area Characteristics**

Total Area = 192.7

**Landuse**

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Crop =        | 98.5 acres |
| Non-Crop =    | 80.0 acres |
| Re-Forested = | 14.2 acres |

**Maintenance Area Characteristics**

Total Area = 32.4 acres

**Landuse**

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Crop =      | 30.6 acres |
| Non-Crop =  | 0.4 acres  |
| BLH =       | 0.4 acres  |
| Re-Forest = | 1 acre     |

**Channel Characteristics**

Total Area = 92.8 acres

**Landuse**

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Crop =           | 53.8 acres |
| Non-Crop =       | 7.6 acres  |
| BLH =            | 20.5 acres |
| Re-Forest =      | 5.9 acres  |
| Existing Water = | 5 acres    |

Landuse Map - Created 12/2/04 Landuse areas calculated using a 1999 Landuse Raster



